

June 2007 – Nepal experienced a media boom following the restoration of democracy in 1990.



The robustness of the media was evident in the prominent role it played during the historic People's Movement in April 2006, which ultimately led to an end of the 11-year Maoist insurgency and the restoration of parliament. Media continues to play an influential role as the country prepares for the election of its first Constituent Assembly in November 2007.

In geographically remote areas of Nepal, which remain hard to reach by transportation, Media has not taken as strong of a foothold. Radio-blind areas have negligible media presence. With the intention of bringing radio to remote areas to create a platform for discussions and information dissemination among the local populace, Antenna Foundation Nepal created the Doko Radio. This project is a complete studio and mobile broadcast station all able to be contained in traditional bamboo baskets, called doko, and transported by foot to some of the most inaccessible areas of the country.



The Doko Radio team was able to reach five remote Village Development Committees (VDCs) in five districts – Gorkha, Humla, Darchula, Solukhumbu, and Manang – between March 16, 2007 and June 3, 2007, covering approximately 12,540 households, or approximately 60,000 people. Pre-recorded radio programs were broadcast to inform people of the political developments in the country and the views of local people were also transmitted and recorded for broadcast. The response was overwhelmingly positive with active participation on issues such as Constituent Assembly, the role of youth and political parties in the peace process.

While political transition and local issues were main topics, local people also shared their musical talents and expressed their grievances. In Humla district, a radio-blind area, people said that Doko Radio made it possible to bring local political leaders of all parties together for the first time in ten years. Realizing the empowering effect of radio, the people of Humla are setting up a permanent FM station there, also to be supported by USAID/OTI.